(c) The objectives of the Rehabilitation Council of India are as follows:—

- to regulate the training programmes in the field of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
- to prescribe minimum standards of education and training for various categories of professionals/personnel dealing with the persons with disabilities.
- to regulate these standards in all the training institutions to maintain uniformity throughout the country.
- to recognize degree/diploma/certificate courses in the field of rehabilitation of disabled run by the institutions/universities and to withdraw recognition wherever facilities are not satisfactory.
- to recognize degree/diploma/certificate awarded by foreign universities/institutions on reciprocal basis.
- to encourage Continuing Rehabilitation Education by way of collaboration with organisation working in the field of disability.
- to promote research in Rehabilitation and Special Education.
- to maintain Central Rehabilitation Register for registration of Rehabilitation professionals/personnel.

(d) The budget of the RCI during the last fiscal year was Rs.300 lakhs under Plan and Rs.85.00 lakhs under Non-plan.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to amend the Act so as to modify its role.

National action plan for women

†*130. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce a National action plan for the upliftment of the women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame for the implementation of the Plan?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to introduce a National Plan of Action (PoA) for implementing the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 (The Policy is available on the website of the Ministry of Women and Child Development at www.wcd.nic.in*)*

Among other things, the PoA sets out action points and measurable goals to be achieved by 2010 in the following areas:—

- Legal Empowerment
- Political Empowerment
- Economic Empowerment
  - Land Rights
  - Micro-credit
  - Agriculture & Allied Activities
  - Industry
  - Support Services
  - Law
- Social Empowerment
  - Education
  - Health
  - Nutrition & Food Security
  - Drinking Water & Sanitation
  - Housing & Shelter
  - Environment
  - Science & Technology
  - Women in difficult circumstances
  - Rights of the Girl Child
  - Women & Media

-Involvement of Civil Society

The PoA is being processed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for Government's approval.